

"The yearly rainfall of the region in which the spekboom thrives averages about 18½ inches, and the rainiest months are the hottest ones (November, December, and January), the temperature reaching 108° F. During these months the rainfall is about 2 inches. In the winter months the rainfall is between 0.35 and 0.54 of an inch and the temperature sometimes as low as 21° F. The plant has been successfully introduced into America and small trees of it are now growing in San Diego and Santa Barbara, Calif." (*David Fairchild.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. Nos. 9604 and 12020.

The spekboom is illustrated in Plate II.

48511 to 48515. *RIBES LOBBII* A. Gray. Grossulariaceæ.

Gooseberry.

From near Castlerock, Wash. Collected by Dr. David Fairchild. Received September 30, 1919, and October 6, 1919.

"Seeds of the largest wild gooseberries that I have ever seen. The fruits from which these seeds were taken I collected from a vigorous bush growing beside the road on a detour between Castlerock and Kelso, Wash., September 10, 1919. This particular bush appeared to bear unusually large fruits for a wild plant, some of them attaining a diameter of an inch. The fruits were attached to the bush by a very slender pedicel, and when I touched them they dropped into my hands. They were covered with flat-topped glandular hairs which made them slightly sticky to the touch and they had an odor reminding me of that exhaled by the leaves of *Rosa xanthina*. A farmer whom we met on the road declared that he could tell when he was near bushes of this species of gooseberry by the odor. The entire skin is claret red when the fruit is ripe, but as these were near the roadside they were grimy with dust which had stuck to their sticky glandular surfaces. The skin peels off easily, exposing a whitish tissue inside of which is the characteristic gooseberry flesh containing a few small seeds. The flavor is extremely mild, not sour but sweetish and rather lacking in character; capable of being improved possibly through breeding by the addition of that tartness so characteristic of our eastern wild gooseberry. I obtained as many seeds as possible with the idea that the seedlings from this particular specimen might inherit the unusual size and that it might be of value in breeding experiments." (*David Fairchild.*)

48511. No. 1. Wild gooseberry.

48512. No. 2. Wild gooseberry.

48513. No. 3. Wild gooseberry.

48514. No. 4. Seeds from the largest berry.

48515. Mixed seed of wild gooseberry.

48516 and 48517. *CRATAEGUS AZAROLUS* L. Malaceæ.

From Granada, Spain. Purchased from Mr. Pedro Giraud. Received November 29, 1919.

Among the species of *Crataegus* one of the most important is *C. azarolus* with its numerous varieties and races. This is a shrub of the calcareous hills and grows only on very dry lands. If undisturbed it grows as high as 13 to 16 feet, but its branches are generally hacked off for fuel by Arab women or mutilated by heavy stones thrown by the boys to shake down the fruit. Some varieties of *C. azarolus* have fruits as large as a large cherry, with a very agreeable acid taste. Although they are sold on the markets of the Orient, they would not be marketable in Europe or America because of the large stones;